

Application Serial No. 10/812,795
Reply to office action of July 24, 2008

PATENT
Docket: CU-3674

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

OCT 24 2008

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 14-16 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

In the office action (page 2), claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 408146503A (Hirayama).

In the office action (page 4), claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0167652 (Ueyama).

In the office action (page 5), **claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 16 are allowed.**

The applicants thank the examiner for the allowance of claims 2, 5, 7-8, 12, and 16.

As to the rejection of claims 14-15. At this time, it is the applicants wish to obtain a Notice of Allowance. Therefore, Claims 14-15 have been **cancelled** without prejudice.

The applicants respectfully note on record that the cancellation of claims herein should not be construed as an admission by the applicants that any of the cited prior art references teaches or discloses or suggests any of the claimed subject matter in the manner proposed by the examiner. In this regard, the applicants respectfully reserve all rights to present the subject matter of claims 14-15, now cancelled, in a separate patent

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application continuing from this application or otherwise.

For the reasons set forth above, issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the currently pending claims 2, 5, 7, 8, and 16 is respectfully requested. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: October 24, 2008

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